

Claim Amendments:

A listing of the claims, including Claims 1, 2, 13, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24-27, 34, 41, 72 and 119-123 as currently amended, is set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated cDNA molecule of a mammalian ELF3 gene, ~~or fragment thereof at least 20 nucleotides long, wherein said cDNA molecule comprises~~ comprising at least one intron of the ELF3 gene or at least a portion of an intron of the ELF3 gene, wherein the ELF3 gene comprises a contiguous sequence set forth in ~~at least~~ about 80% homologous to SEQ ID NO:10, wherein said intron is selected from the group consisting of intron 4, intron 5, intron 6, intron 7 and intron 8, and wherein said cDNA molecule is at least 20 nucleotides long.

2. (Currently Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the intron is selected from the group consisting of intron 4, intron 5, intron 6, and intron 7, ~~intron 8,~~ and combinations thereof.

3-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended). The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule also comprises ~~a sequence at least 90% homologous to~~ at least a portion of SEQ ID NO:13.

14-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended ) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, comprising SEQ ID NO:11.

17-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule comprises intron 7 or a portion thereof comprising introns 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the ELF3 gene.

20. (Currently Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule ~~ELF3 gene~~ comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule comprises introns 4, 5, and 6, and a portion of intron 7 ~~was prepared from a composition comprising a cell.~~

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule was prepared from a composition comprising a cell, the cell obtained from a human patient being tested for breast cancer.

25. (Currently Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1 ~~24~~, which is at least 50 nucleotides long ~~wherein the patient is at high risk for breast cancer.~~

26. (Currently Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1 ~~22~~, which is at least 100 nucleotides long ~~wherein the cell is a peripheral blood mononuclear cell.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The cDNA molecule of claim 1 ~~22~~, which is at least 500 nucleotides long ~~wherein the cell was obtained from a tissue biopsy.~~

28-33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the cDNA molecule of claim 1.

35. (Original) A cell transfected with the vector of claim 34.

36-40. (Canceled).

41. (Currently Amended) A set of two primers, each less than 30 nucleotides in length, wherein each primer is homologous to a portion of an ELF3 gene, and (a) wherein at least one primer is homologous to a portion of an intron of the ELF3 gene or (b) wherein each primer is homologous to a portion of different exons of the ELF3 gene, wherein the set of two primers are capable of directing RT-PCR synthesis of the cDNA molecule of claim 1.

42-71. (Canceled).

72. (Currently Amended) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 1, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

73-118. (Canceled).

119. (Currently Amended) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 2, the probe further comprising a detectable label ~~The isolated cDNA of claim 1, wherein the ELF3 gene is at least about 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO:10.~~

120. (Currently Amended) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 19, the probe further comprising a detectable label ~~The cDNA of claim 1, wherein the cDNA also comprises a sequence completely homologous to at least a portion of SEQ ID NO:13.~~

121. (Currently Amended) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 13, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

122. (Currently Amended) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 16, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

123. (Currently Amended) A probe homologous to the cDNA molecule of claim 20, the probe further comprising a detectable label.